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Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report provides information on the status of the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and on cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions.[1]

2. In operative paragraph 6 of the above-mentioned resolution, the Council also invited the functional commissions to implement, where they had not yet done so, relevant provisions of its resolution 1998/46, entitled "Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in economic, social and related fields", which includes in its annex II specific recommendations for the functional commissions of the Council with specific responsibilities for the follow-up to the major United Nations conferences. The present report also provides information on the status of the implementation of those provisions.

3. In addition, the mandate continued in Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991 for an annual report on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in economic, social and related fields is covered in the present report. It was implemented until 1999 through the report on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B. In those resolutions, the Assembly recommended a number of measures addressed both to the Council and the General Assembly. In order to provide a comprehensive overview, the present report, in addition to the information addressed to the Council and its functional commissions, includes a brief account of the implementation of the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B, particularly on the work of its second and third Committees.

4. Section II of the report provides information on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields under a dual column layout for ease of reference. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions is dealt with in a narrative format, under section III. Finally, in section IV a number of recommendations are put forth which the Council may wish to consider.

II. Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

A. Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B.

5. The following table provides information on the implementation of relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227 addressed to the Second and Third Committees (for more detailed information on the implementation of such provisions in 1998 and 1999, see A/53/137-E/1998/66 and A/54/115-E/1999/59):

Relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227	*Status of implementation*
The **use of innovative mechanisms**, such as panel discussions with delegations and interactive debates, with the active participation of Secretariat and agency representatives, as well as outside experts, should be encouraged (para. 19)	The organization of panels and executive briefings has become an established practice. At the fifty-fourth session of the Assembly, 15 such events were held by the Second Committee. United Nations agencies, including the World Bank, have greatly contributed to the organization of such events. Innovative mechanisms have been introduced, such as presentations and discussions with outside resource persons, including academia, civil society representatives and journalists. In addition, the Third Committee has initiated a practice of starting the consideration of its agenda items with a dialogue with the head of the Secretariat office responsible for each item. Such dialogues have enabled a fruitful interaction between delegations and the Secretariat.
There is a need to promote **greater coherence and complementarity** between the work of the Second and Third Committees (para. 21)	The bureaux of both Committees have met to review their respective programmes of work and avoid overlap and duplication. Such issues as poverty eradication, human resources development, the social impact of globalization and financing the conferences' commitments are addressed by the two Committees. It is important that they further deepen their collaboration in this regard.
There is a need to consider possible measures to allow for the **coordinated consideration of the report of the Economic and Social Council** during the General Assembly session (para. 22)	The report of the Council is considered in four of the main committees and in plenary meetings. The Second Committee holds a more extensive discussion of the Council's work under agenda item 12. To allow coordinated consideration of the Council's work, the Assembly may wish to examine the report of the Council in its plenary. The report would be introduced by the President of the Council. While significant improvements have been made in recent years in the structure and presentation of the Council's report, further efforts could be made to make the report more user-friendly.
Resolutions should be shorter, in particular as regards their preambular parts. The bureaux, in reviewing the respective agendas, could identify and recommend those individual items or clusters of items that	The Second and Third Committees adopted 37 and 69 resolutions, respectively, at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, which represents an increase compared to 1998 (33 and 59 resolutions adopted). The Third Committee adopted an omnibus resolution on drugs. In the Second Committee, 12 resolutions were adopted

Relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227	*Status of implementation*
could be effectively considered in **omnibus resolutions** (para. 24)	on environment-related issues. Both Committees would need to make greater efforts to adopt omnibus resolutions, particularly on women and gender issues (Third Committee) and the environment (Second Committee). No significant changes have been observed in the length of resolutions.
To facilitate discussions based on an integrated approach to development issues, the possibility of **choosing a principal theme or themes** should be explored to focus the substantive debate under each "cluster in the agenda" without prejudice to the right of delegations to raise any other specific issue in the debates (para. 27)	The Second and Third Committees have focused their debates under clusters and sub-clusters of the agenda. The work of the Third Committee is organized in two clusters (social and related issues; and human rights and related issues) and some items are twinned (drugs and crime, advancement of women and follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women). Several agenda items of the Second Committee, such as "macroeconomic policy questions", "sustainable development and international economic cooperation" and "environment and development", include five to seven sub-items. At the fifty-fourth session of the Assembly, lengthy discussions in the Second Committee confirmed the need to implement in full the provisions of Assembly resolution 50/227, including focusing the debate under each agenda item and reducing the number of items.

B. Progress in the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46, annex II

6. The following table covers most of the provisions contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51, as well as major provisions of Council resolution 1998/46, as they relate to the Council's functional commissions, providing information on the status of their implementation (it may be recalled that General Assembly resolution 50/227 served as the basis for the review of the methods of work of the Council's subsidiary bodies):

Provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46[a]	*Status of implementation*
The meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council should be scheduled at least eight weeks before the session of the Council, where feasible, and submission of the reports of these bodies should be well in advance for the consideration of the Council (para. 2)	In 2000, the functional commissions of the Council had all met before the deadline requested; the Commission on Sustainable Development, the session of which is the latest in the calendar in 2000, ended its work on 5 May, more than eight weeks before the Council's session. Three regional commissions have held a session in 2000: the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Europe met, respectively in early April and May, and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was scheduled to meet from 1 to 7 June 2000, a month before the substantive session of 2000 of the Council. As for the standing committees and expert bodies, the request by the Council has been largely followed, including by the Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its twentieth session, the fifteenth meeting of the Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance, the Committee for Development Policy at its 2000 plenary meeting and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-second session. However, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations holds its annual session for the year 2000 in May and June 2000, with a resumed session in January 2000. In view of the workload of the Committee, the number of its meetings has been increased to five weeks, and it has proved difficult to adjust to the "eight-week rule" in the planning of these meetings. As for the Committee on Programme and Coordination, its session was scheduled to be held in June 2000 in order to take into account the work of the various commissions and to translate their legislative mandates into secretariat outputs. The Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme experience similar constraints, as

Provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46[a]	*Status of implementation*
	they hold two to three regular sessions per year, in addition to their annual sessions. Every effort is made by the Secretariat to submit the reports of these bodies as early as possible after the sessions.
Interaction between the Council and its subsidiary bodies should be increased, including through joint bureau meetings and strengthened coordination functions. Efforts should be made to further ensure the regular **exchange of information** on their programmes of work, including a more systematic transmission of documentation to other subsidiary bodies (para. 3)	The Bureau of the Council held joint meetings with the bureaux of six out of the eight functional commissions, which held sessions in 2000. The Commission on the Status of Women had to postpone the meeting in view of the short time left for the Commission's regular work as it also acted as the Preparatory Committee for the five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Similarly, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice exceptionally held a shorter session of three days in 2000, following the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; it was thus not possible to accommodate a meeting with the two bureaux. Several commissions reported that increased attention is being given to sharing information with and submitting reports to other functional commissions.[2] For example, the United Nations Statistical Division and the Bureau of the Statistical Commission review the Commission's documents and ensure that they are transmitted to other commissions, as appropriate. The report of the Secretary-General on capital punishment, prepared by the Centre for International Crime Prevention, is also considered by the Commission on Human Rights and the Council itself. In addition, in the context of the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights submitted a report to the Commission on Social Development on the implementation of Summit goals from a human rights perspective. The United Nations Population Division also prepared a document entitled "Charting the progress of populations", at the request of the Commission on Social Development.

Provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46[a]	*Status of implementation*
	However, it appears from the agendas of the commissions that the pre-sessional documents remain in most cases the ones deriving strictly from the Commission's resolutions. Documents emanating from other commissions/secretariat services rarely appear on the agenda.
Annual meetings of the Council's Bureau with the chairpersons of the functional commissions are encouraged in order to facilitate an exchange of views and information on the direction of the commissions' programmes of work (para. 4)	Meetings of the Council's Bureau with the chairpersons of the functional commissions have not taken place to date. Such a meeting could be organized at the time of the general segment of the Council. It may be noted that, at its 1999 inter-sessional meeting, the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development recommended the organization of such meetings during the substantive sessions of the Council. The Bureau noted that funding for air transport and per diems for chairpersons to travel to Geneva or New York was essential. It might also be useful to organize meetings with chairpersons of some selected commissions in the course of 2000 and 2001 on issues of common interest, such as gender issues or trafficking in persons.
The **bureaux** of the functional commissions should: (a) **Develop interaction among themselves** to improve collaboration and coordination on issues that are addressed by two or more commissions, using information technology as required (para. 5) (b) Continue to support the cooperation among the functional commissions, in particular by **implementing fully the guidance given by the Council in its resolution 1999/1** (para. 22)	Various initiatives have been taken by the bureaux to increase interaction among the functional commissions, such as involving chairpersons in the work of other commissions or organizing briefing by Secretariat officials servicing other commissions. In addition to the examples described below, further information is contained in the consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions in 2000 (E/2000/___). Among the various themes on which cooperation among functional commissions is needed, specific efforts have been made on gender issues. Following the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming, the Commission on the Status of Women has built up innovative and constructive working relations with other United Nations entities. Since 1998, the Chairperson of the Commission has annually participated in the work of the Commission on Human Rights and addressed that Commission.

Provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46[a]	*Status of implementation*
	Outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women of particular relevance to the work of the Commission on Human Rights have been transmitted by the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women to the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights with an invitation to bring them to the attention of that Commission. A video conference between the bureaux of the two Commissions took place on 17 November 1999 and addressed the issue of collaboration and complementarity of work. In order to facilitate the Council's monitoring and coordination function in this area, a report has been submitted annually to the Council on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, summarizing steps taken by other functional commissions with regard to the advancement of women and gender mainstreaming (see E/2000/__).
	At its most recent session, the Commission on Population and Development received presentations on related activities undertaken by other commissions, namely the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Statistical Commission. These presentations were made by the Directors of the respective Divisions servicing these commissions. Such an initiative was all the more necessary as the special theme for the Commission session in 2000 was population, gender and development, and will be population, environment and development in 2001.
	The Statistical Commission included in the agenda of its most recent session a conference room paper showing the relationships between Statistical Commission agenda items and other functional commissions and events. Other commissions could usefully adopt this practice.
	The Commission on Social Development has also made efforts to link its work on poverty with that of other United Nations entities. The agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission over recent years include recommendations addressed to the United Nations system, as well as to the Economic and Social Council. The Chairman of

Provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46[a]	*Status of implementation*
	the Commission for Social Development addressed the Commission for Population and Development in 1999. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development on disability has also collaborated closely with the Commission on Human Rights in the preparation of his report on the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. He also addressed the Commission at its most recent session.
Collaboration among and between the secretariats of the functional commissions should be further strengthened; such collaboration can be in the form of, *inter alia*, preparing joint reports on linked issues, the systematic exchange of relevant information and documentation and participation in relevant activities, where feasible and appropriate (para. 22)	At the Secretariat level, collaboration between the various divisions servicing the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Statistical Commission is greatly facilitated by the fact that they are all part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Collaboration with the secretariats of the Geneva- and Vienna-based commissions needs to be made more systematic. However, progress has been achieved, particularly on gender issues. For example, since 1996 a joint work plan has been prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and submitted to both Commissions (see E/CN.6/2000/8-E/CN.4/2000/18 for the joint work plan for 2000). Joint reports are prepared by the two entities. Cooperation has also been strengthened between the Centre for International Crime Prevention, the Division and the Office on such issues as trafficking in persons and violence against women, including against women migrant workers.
Functional commissions are invited to implement, where they have not yet done so, the relevant provisions of resolution 1998/46, in particular as it relates to the adoption of **multi-year programmes of work** and to the **coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits** (para. 6)	Several commissions, which have been working on the basis of multi-year programmes of work for several years, are in the process of formulating new ones. Since the special sessions of the General Assembly on the five-year reviews of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development will take place in June 2000 and in order to enable the commissions fully to reflect the outcomes of these events, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Sustainable Development have

Provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46[a]	*Status of implementation*
The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development are invited to consider adopting multi-year programmes of work (para. 7)	decided that they would consider their multi-year programmes of work at their 2001sessions. As for the Commission on Sustainable Development, its current five-year programme of work covers the period 1998-2002; the next one will also take into account the outcome of the 10-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to take place in 2002. The commissions will also be in a position to take into account the Council's review, in the year 2000, of an integrated and coordinated follow-up to all United Nations conferences and summits. The use of the functional Commissions as Preparatory Committees for the five-year review processes confirms their critical role in ensuring appropriate follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits. The Commission on Population and Development decided at its most recent session on the special themes for its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions, to be held in 2002 and 2003. In addition, the Commission reaffirmed its decision of 1999 that "Population, environment and development" would be the special theme for its thirty-fourth session, in 2001, which will enable the Commission to feed into the deliberations of the 10-year review of UNCED. The Commission also decided that the Population Division of the Secretariat should give due attention to the impact of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in the preparation of the documentation for the whole period of 2001-2003. At its most recent session, the Statistical Commission included in its agenda a draft multi-year programme of work covering the period 2000-2003. The latter, proposed by the United Nations Statistics Division on the Council's recommendation, ensures that the Commission will give due consideration to relevant agenda items over the next three years while decreasing the number of items included in the Commission's agenda at each session. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its sixth session in 1997, adopted special themes for the three following sessions. At its 2000 session, the Commission decided on a prominent theme for its

Provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46[a]	*Status of implementation*
	session in 2001 (Progress made in global action against corruption). However, it did not consider it advisable to adopt themes for subsequent sessions given the ongoing work on the drafting of the United Nations Convention on Organized Transnational Crime and the follow-up to the Tenth United Nations Crime Congress, which calls for a flexible approach. It was agreed that each session of the Commission would fix the theme for the next session. Special thematic debates have been included in the agenda of the regular sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2001and 2002. The Commission also decided to examine on a biennial basis a report of the Executive Director on the progress achieved by Governments in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its 1998 special session on drugs. While these arrangements do not constitute a multi-year programme of work as such, they help to plan and streamline the Commission's work. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development, which holds biennial sessions, will discuss the issue of multi-year programme of work at its next session, in 2001. Although the commissions play an important role in providing a follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits, further progress could be achieved in the follow-up provided to cross-cutting themes. Information on this question is contained in the report on the integrated follow-up to United Nations major conferences and summits, to be discussed by the Council in the framework of its coordination segment (E/2000/__), and in the consolidated report on the work of the Council's functional commissions in 2000.
Functional commissions are encouraged, in formulating the **titles of the items in their programmes of work,** to provide, where appropriate, an **explicit indication of linkages** of their planned activities with	The implementation of these provisions will be better assessed in 2001, once the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Social Development and the Commission on Science and Technology have adopted their multi-year programmes of work, and in 2002 for the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46[a]	*Status of implementation*
those of other commissions and/or with major planned United Nations events, and to enhance, assisted by their secretariats, coordination and **collaboration at the programme planning and formulating stage** (para. 8)	To facilitate follow-up to the Council's guidance, the bureaux, assisted by the commissions' secretariats, should ensure that information and proposals on how to ensure the complementarity of the various programmes of work are submitted to their respective commissions. The Commission on the Status of Women has requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its next session containing proposals for its future programme of work, including information on those of other commissions. Such information could be presented in a conference room paper, such as the one provided to the Statistical Commission in 2000, or could be included in the draft annotated agendas. The various narratives of the medium-term plan and of the biennial programme budget could also be of use to the commissions in these endeavours.
Functional commissions are encouraged, in designing their multi-year programmes of work, **to take fully into account the multi-year programmes of work of other functional commissions** to ensure complementarity between them (para. 9)	The Commission on Population and Development, in adopting its multi-year programme of work at its most recent session, has taken into account the work of other commissions, as noted above, and the Commission on the Status of Women, in choosing thematic issues for consideration at its forty-fifth session, in 2001, decided to consider the question of gender and various forms of discrimination, in particular issues related to racial and ethnic discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance. This will enable the Commission to make a contribution to the World Conference against Racism in 2001.
Functional commissions should **improve their working methods**, including as they relate to in-depth discussions, panels of experts and the exchange of national experiences, and inter-sessional meetings (Council resolution 1998/46, annex II, paras. 2-13)	All functional commissions have adapted their working methods over the last three years. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Population and Development reviewed them at their 1999 sessions. As for the Commission on the Status of Women, it has continued to hold informal inter-sessional consultations in preparation for its annual session, on the Commission's organization and methods of work (the report to be presented in 2001 on the Commission's programme of work will also include an overview of the working methods of other commissions). It should be stressed that the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Narcotic
Functional commissions should benefit from **high-level participation**, including from other entities of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and	

Provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46[a]	*Status of implementation*
other specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations (Council resolution 1998/46, annex II, paras. 2-13)	Drugs have decided to hold high-level segments. The Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Social Development have organized several panels of experts and side-events to facilitate the consideration of substantive issues addressed by the five-year review processes of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development. These panels involved national representatives and experts from United Nations entities, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations. The Commission on Social Development has placed emphasis on enhancing the contribution of NGOs by holding dialogues during the plenary sessions of the Commission. The Commission on Sustainable Development has traditionally taken the lead among the functional commissions in involving major groups in its deliberation. In addition to specific additional arrangements for the participation of NGOs in the Commission on Social Development, which supplemented the rules of procedure of the functional commissions (see Council decision 1993/215), the Commission includes in its sessions multi-stakeholder dialogue segments, which provide for the interactive involvement of Governments, the private sector, NGOs and trade unions particularly relevant to the agendas of its given sessions. In addition, as planned in its multi-year programme of work, the Commission has held two inter-sessional ad hoc working groups in 2000 in preparation for its sectoral and cross-sectoral themes. The fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights was preceded by meetings of nine inter-sessional and pre-sessional working groups on various items of the agenda. As for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, its ninth session was preceded by the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, a consultative body the outcome of which will be presented to the General Assembly through the Commission and the Council. The Congress provided a unique opportunity for interaction

Provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46[a]	*Status of implementation*
	between high-ranking officials (a high-level segment was held), NGO representatives, through a series of ancillary meetings, and the network of Institutes associated with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. Four action-oriented workshops were held as part of the Congress agenda, which enabled an exchange of information on national experiences and best practices, while exploring possible technical cooperation activities on the workshops' topics. As per Council resolution 1999/30, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs has structured its agenda into a normative segment and an operational one, the latter dealing with its role as the governing body of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). Further improving its working methods, the Commission decided at its last session to hold ministerial segments in 2003 and 2008 to review the goals and targets decided at the special session of the General Assembly held in 1998. The thematic debates to be held in 2001 and 2002 will be guided by panels of experts to enhance the possibility of having more focused discussions. In general terms, it should be stressed that the involvement of non-governmental organizations has been particularly active in 2000. Some arrangements have been found to accommodate the requests of NGO representatives to take the floor, such as having one organization speaking on behalf of a group or organizing panels at lunch time and early morning. The Bureau of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs has raised, during its joint meeting with the Bureau of the Council, the issue of accreditation of NGOs which work specifically in the area of drug control but whose participation is made difficult by the complex requirements and lengthy procedure needed to obtain consultative status with the Council. Specific arrangements would further facilitate the involvement of NGOs in Council meetings devoted to their specific fields of expertise.
Open and **informal dialogue sessions** should be organized, including by the Council, on	The number of panels and informal sessions organized by the Council and its subsidiary bodies has very much increased over the last two years. In

Provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46[a]	*Status of implementation*
cross-cutting themes of various functional commissions (para. 11)	the framework of the five-year review processes of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development, the secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women and of the Commission on Social Development have organized a large number of informal meetings on gender issues, poverty eradication and social services for all, in partnership with other United Nations entities, as well as the World Bank. The Commission on Population and Development also held a panel discussion at its most recent session, at which representatives provided a regional perspective on the issue of gender and development. And the Tenth Crime Congress devoted one of its action-oriented workshops to the issue of women and the criminal justice system. Furthermore, in order to increase interactivity the Commission on Sustainable Development decided to divide its high-level segment into two parts: one for a general debate, with a list of speakers, and the second for interactive thematic dialogues. The Council and other functional commissions may wish to consider adopting this practice. The Economic and Social Council held a special meeting on the cross-cutting theme of HIV/AIDS, in partnership with the Security Council. The current and former Presidents of the Security Council, the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and a representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) participated at the meeting and held a dialogue with the Council members. This initiative echoed the willingness to increase the coordination role of the Council and its inter-action with major United Nations bodies, and to call special meetings at any time during the year in order to act in a more timely and responsive manner. In addition, in preparation for its high-level segment, the Council held a series of panels on the different dimensions of the role of information and communication technology for development, in partnership with various United Nations agencies and the World Bank

Provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46[a]	*Status of implementation*
Functional Commissions are encouraged to ensure **continuity on their bureaux** and to consider re-electing at least one member of the outgoing bureau to the incoming bureau, without prejudice to the rules of procedures of the functional commissions of the Council regarding the election of the bureau (para. 12)	The guidance by the Council on the continuity and increased role of the bureaux has been largely followed. The election of a vice-chairman of the outgoing bureau to the incoming bureau has become a common practice within the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Statistical Commission. The Commission on Human Rights implemented it for the first time in 2000. In addition, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Sustainable Development elect their incoming bureaux immediately after the conclusion of the previous sessions in order to facilitate the preparation for the meeting. As for the Commission on the Status of Women, its bureau is elected for a two-year period.
The bureau plays a crucial role in the successful outcome of, and in facilitating the preparation for, the meeting. **Inter-sessional meetings of the Bureau** should be organized (Council resolution 1998/46, annex II, sect. B)	All functional commissions which met in 2000 had held at least one inter-sessional meeting of their bureaux, during which the organization of work of the session was discussed. As a result, the work of the commissions is now perceived as ongoing rather than limited to the dates of the commissions' sessions, and the responsibilities for organizing the debates are more clearly defined.
The **Committee for Development Policy** should improve its methods of work in order to better contribute to the work of the Council; the future programme of work of the Committee should be determined at the substantive session of the Council (para. 13)	At its most recent session, held from 3 to 7 April 2000, the Committee discussed the theme for the high-level segment of the Council, i.e. information technology in the context of a knowledge-based economy, in order to provide an input to the Council's debates. The report of the Committee is before the Council (E/2000/__).
Functional commissions should continue to give particular attention to the **situation of African countries and the least developed countries** in their consideration of relevant issues, especially in view of the upcoming Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2001 and the review of the United	The agendas of the functional commissions include mostly thematic as opposed to regional items. As a result, the issue of the needs of African countries and the least developed countries has been considered at the programmatic level by the various secretariat entities rather than at the policy-making level. However, it is worth mentioning that the 2000 agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on Social Development outline the progress made in the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development commitments,

Provisions of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46[a]	*Status of implementation*
Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) in 2002 (para. 21)	which include, among the five topics, support for Africa and the least developed countries. To ensure a specific contribution from the functional commissions on the preparation of the Third Conference and the review of UN-NADAF, the commissions may need to include a specific item in their provisional agenda or to adopt other appropriate mechanisms to ensure their consideration of the issue.
Functional commissions **should report to the Council** on the follow-up actions to Council resolution 1999/51 at its substantive session of 2000 (para. 23)	Only the Statistical Commission fulfilled such a reporting requirement. Partial information, including on the multi-year programmes of work, is also reflected in the report of the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Commission on the Status of Women had included for the first time an agenda item on the follow-up to the Council's guidance, in direct response to the Council's request. However, in the light of the short time available, the Commission was not in a position to discuss the issue. It is expected that in the future, reports of the Commission on the Status of Women will reflect the debate and the decisions taken by the Commission under this agenda item. The Council itself may need to further reflect on the way it reviews the work of its functional commissions during its general segment. In 1999, it held a series of informal consultations to review the draft resolutions and decisions proposed by the commissions for adoption. It has also started to address more effectively the inter-linkages among the work of the commissions based on the consolidated report.

[a] Para. nos. refer to Council resolution 1999/51, unless otherwise indicated.

III. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions

7. In section II of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51, entitled "Progress report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions", the Council welcomes the strengthening of the partnership and the series of events held in 1998 and 1999 to advance the dialogue between their governing bodies. It also welcomes the broad agreement reached in the context of

the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development and recommends that the Assembly consider exploring the possibility of inviting the Bretton Woods institutions to participate in a joint task force. The Council further encourages intensification of cooperation at the Secretariat and at the country level, and reiterates its call for a renewed effort to further coordinate policy approaches and give new impetus to collaborative and complementary actions by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, in particular in the area of poverty eradication.

8. During the preparation for the high-level event on financing for development, substantive progress has been achieved in developing modalities for cooperation towards a common approach between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. The General Assembly, at its fifty-fourth session, had requested the Secretary-General, within the context of paragraphs 17 and 18 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/51, to initiate as soon as possible preliminary consultations with all relevant stakeholders, in particular the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Trade Organization, on the potential modalities of their participation in both the substantive preparatory process and the high-level intergovernmental process. The Assembly further decided that the Preparatory Committee for the high-level event would consider the modalities for the participation of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. As a result, the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee met on 15 March 2000 with the Executive Board of the World Bank. The Board proposed a three-prong arrangement to involve the Bank in the process. Under these proposals, the Executive Board would hold meetings with the Bureau at crucial moments and continue to build on informal contacts at the intergovernmental level and arrange high-level contacts with the Preparatory Committee. In addition, the World Bank is providing staff to the joint coordinating secretariat for the event. Arrangements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are under way for consultations with its Executive Board. On 31 March 2000, the Preparatory Committee agreed to hold further consultations with the Bretton Woods institutions and to schedule meetings to advance its substantive work (for further information, see A/AC.257/6).

9. In addition, since the substantive session of the Council in 1999, three major events enabled the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions to interact at the intergovernmental level. The first-ever visit of the Executive Directors of IMF to the United Nations was held in New York on 28 October 1999 in continuation of the dialogue launched in June 1999 in Washington, D.C., by a meeting between 30 Economic and Social Council Ambassadors and the Executive Directors of IMF. The two principal themes of the discussions were (a) poverty eradication and the HIPC initiative and (b) post-conflict peace-building. In general terms, it was felt that the Fund was increasing its focus on poverty eradication, in line with the United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s. The meeting also provided an opportunity for a number of Member States that have lesser visibility in IMF to directly bring their point of view to the attention of the IMF Board.

10. Second, 30 Economic and Social Council Ambassadors met with the Executive Board of the World Bank on 14 and 15 March 2000, in the framework of the World Bank/United Nations Exchange Programme. The chairs of the Executive Boards of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, as well as the chairpersons of the five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women, joined the Ambassadors in this visit. The debates focused on a number of substantive issues, namely poverty reduction

(including the comprehensive development framework and the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative), current issues in microfinance, recent development in knowledge management, action against HIV/AIDS and financing for development. The open and fruitful debates, which characterized this meeting, contributed to increase convergence in policy approaches, while promoting the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and meetings in the Bretton Woods machinery.

11. More recently, the third high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, held in New York on 18 April 2000, exemplified the broad agreement within the international community on international development priorities and goals. Following the Council guidance contained in resolution 1999/51 to focus the debates on one or two major substantive issues, the United Nations Secretariat had prepared, in consultation with the Bank and the Fund, a note which identified topics for discussion around two broad policy concerns, namely the reform of the global financial system and fighting poverty in developing countries. The note contributed to a more focused exchange of views. Several speakers recognized that the Bretton Woods institutions were going through considerable changes in their work based on the outcome of United Nations major conferences and summits, and that poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) were key instruments for their coordinated assistance to recipient countries. In this regard, practical observations were made on cooperation at the field level, particularly on the linkages between the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the comprehensive development framework of the World Bank and the PRSPs prepared in connection with the HIPC initiative.

12. In addition, interaction continued through the organization of briefings and panel discussions involving senior officials of the World Bank and the IMF during the deliberations of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the Preparatory Committees for the five-year reviews of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development and the sessions of the Council's functional commissions. Six panels and four briefings have been organized by the Bank during the period under review, on various development-related topics, the most predominant one being poverty reduction and social services for all. In addition, in the framework of the preparations for the high-level segment of the Council, the World Bank organized a panel discussion at United Nations Headquarters, on the theme "How can knowledge management change the face of development?". As has become the practice, the Managing Director of IMF and the President of the World Bank are expected to take part in the policy dialogue to be held in the context of the high-level segment of the Council.

13. The intensification of the linkages between the governing bodies of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions has naturally further strengthened cooperation at the secretariat level. Although consultations for the preparation of reports to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, have been long-standing, the joint organization of a high number of events, as described above, gave a new dimension to this cooperation, facilitated by the presence in New York of the Special Representative of the World Bank to the United Nations and by the New York Office of IMF. It is also recalled that the executive heads of the Bretton Woods institutions who are members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination participate in the sessions of ACC, which this year focused on trade and information technology. In addition, the Bretton Woods institutions have

contributed to the Preparatory Committee for the Five-Year Review of the World Summit for Social Development, through the preparation of specific documents, namely a paper by the World Bank on strengthening infrastructures for social development and a report by IMF on social policy issues in IMF-supported programmes: follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development.

14. Cooperation in the framework of the long-term programme of support for Haiti, as per Council resolution 1999/11, involves the intergovernmental, the secretariat and the country levels. As has been the case with the Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti in 1999, United Nations Secretariat and UNDP officials continued to mutually benefit from the cooperation with World Bank and IMF officials in preparing the Council's deliberations on Haiti. They have been mutually invited to participate in coordination meetings held in New York and Washington, D.C. Such cooperation is all the more necessary as the success of a long-term programme of support for Haiti depends on coherence and proper linkages between the United Nations common country assessment, which has been carried out by UNDP in Haiti, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSP) process (for further information, see report of the Secretary-General on the elaboration and implementation of the long-term programme of support for Haiti (E/2000/__)).

15. The case of Haiti, although specific inasmuch as the Council has been directly involved in the shaping of the United Nations presence and of development mechanisms there, is not unique. In many ways, the success of the cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions will depend on the extent to which policy guidance, which has been increasingly coordinated at the intergovernmental level, is translated into concrete actions at the country level. Consistency has to be ensured between the four main mechanisms for coordination of assistance, namely the common country assessment, UNDAF, the comprehensive development framework and PRSP, while promoting ownership by recipient Governments. Various initiatives are under way, from which preliminary observations can be drawn. To avoid duplication in reporting requirements, reference is made to the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/192 (E/2000/46/Add.1), which presents an overview of the coordination of activities at the country level.

IV. Recommendations

16. The following recommendations are intended to promote further implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/51 and 1998/46:

(a) General Assembly:

(i) The Second and Third Committees could pursue and extend the practice of organizing a dialogue, when starting the consideration of an agenda item, with the heads of substantive departments, offices or agencies responsible for reporting requirements under this agenda item;

(ii) Ways of strengthening cooperation between the Second and Third Committees should continue to be explored, including the holding of joint panels on common issues and more frequent meetings of the two bureaux;

(iii) The Assembly may wish to discuss the report of the Economic and Social Council in plenary. The report could be presented by the President of the Council; this would increase the visibility of the work of the Council, while increasing its integrated examination by the Assembly;

(iv) The Bureau of the Second Committee may wish to review the provisional agenda and further rationalize its methods of work, including further clustering of the agenda items, reducing the number of meetings, and adopting more omnibus or integrated resolutions;

(b) Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions:

(i) The Council might need to further reflect on how it can better organize its debate on the reports of the functional commissions, since clusters are not always conducive to a focused substantive debate on the commissions' outcomes;

(ii) The Council may wish to reflect on how to make its report more user friendly amenable to a more integrated review by the General Assembly;

(iii) The Council may wish to request the bureaux of the functional commissions, assisted by the Secretariat, to review commissions' documents and outcomes and to ensure that they are transmitted to other commissions, as appropriate. Bureaux should also identify the reports and documentation from other commissions that could be of interest to the consideration of their commission. Such reports should be added to the list of documentation for the following session of the Commission;

(iv) The Bureau of the Council may wish to take advantage of the presence of the chairpersons of the functional commissions, during the general segment, to convene a meeting for an exchange of views on the direction of the commissions' programmes of work. Meetings with chairpersons of some commissions on issues of common interest could also be held;

(v) The Council may wish to reiterate its request to the functional commissions and their bureaux to ensure that when formulating their multi-year programmes of work, the commissions take fully into account those of other commissions as well as major United Nations events, and ensure complementarity between them. To that end, the Council may wish to request the Secretary-General to submit to all functional commissions at their next sessions a background note on their respective programmes of work as well as proposals for possible linkages between them;

(vi) The Council, in welcoming the review by the functional commissions of their respective methods of work, following the Council's guidance, may call for continued efforts towards the strengthening of the role of the bureaux, the organization of interactive debates involving a broad range of actors, and the convening of inter-sessional meetings in preparation of their sessions;

(vii) The Council may also decide to hold informal dialogue sessions on cross-cutting themes, including at a time when a functional commission is in session, in order to benefit from the expertise of the delegates attending the commission session, and to broaden the perspective of that commission to interrelated issues;

(viii) The Council may wish to examine ways and means to facilitate the participation of specialized non-governmental organizations, which do not have consultative status with the Council, to take part in the sessions of those commissions of direct interest to their work;

(ix) The Council may wish to invite the bureaux of the functional commissions to make proposals on how the commissions can contribute to the efforts carried out to assist African countries and the Least Developed Countries, particularly in the framework of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2001 and the review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s in 2002;

(x) The Council may wish to reiterate its call to the functional commissions to report to it on the follow-up provided to the Council's guidance;

(c) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions:

(i) The Council may wish to welcome the renewed partnership between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, and decide to involve in its future joint meetings, depending on the subjects under discussion, the chairpersons of the relevant functional commissions and of the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes;

(ii) The Council may wish to decide extending similar partnership with the World Trade Organization and to discuss the modalities for such cooperation; the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should be closely involved in this process.

Notes

[1] The present report should be read in conjunction with the consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions in 2000 (E/2000/_) and relevant sections of the report on the integrated follow-up to United Nations major conferences and summits (E/2000/57).

[2] Information on further cooperation in this respect is contained in the consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions of the Council in 2000 (E/2000/_). It provides an overview of the matter and shows possible areas for coordination among functional commissions, in particular on the key cross-cutting themes emanating from the major conferences of the 1990s.